

S M -277
ABELL SCHOOL
Abell
Private

1890's

The northern block of this two-part structure is the Abell School, which was built for the local black children in the late 1890's. It is representative of the schoolhouses built for students of both races in rural areas at that time. According to local informants, Luke Clark and other leading Negro farmers and watermen in the community believed so strongly in education that they mortgaged their land to obtain the money to acquire the land and construct the school.

S M.-277
Abell School
Abell, Md.
Private

c. 1890

This abandoned, one story frame building was constructed as a school house with one room to serve the Negro children of the Abell community. It was built on land acquired by the black landowners in the community. In later years an L addition was attached. The school had been whitewashed, and with its green trim and scalloped eaves boards it would have had an attractive appearance. Local people taught in this school for many years. Together with the Love and Charity Social Club (S M.-281) hall nearby, this school would have constituted on the center of the community.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SM - 277
MAGI #1902775602

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Abell School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER South side of Abell Road, c. 200 yards east of junction
of Abell Road and T Routes 242 and 470.

CITY, TOWN

Abell

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

St. Mary's

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER

Abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME United Parents Trustee Association

Telephone #: None

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Abell

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20606

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE.
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

St. Mary's County Courthouse

Liber #: Map 46 P. 319
Folio #: 109/388; P. 131
83/483

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leonardtown

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☐ FAIR☒ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE _____**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This small structure stands on the south side of the Abell Road between the road and the Love and Charity Hall. It is now abandoned and gutted and is rapidly deteriorating, though most of the framing timbers remain sound at this time.

The school has an L plan with the original block running north-south, perpendicular to the road. This block is one story in height, one bay in width, three bays in length. The entranceway opens into the west length of the older block and is sheltered by a cantilevered porch with an A-roof. The structural system of this block is balloon frame with the members having been cut by a circular saw and fastened by cut nails. There are no mortice and tenon joints nor any evidence of hand-work. The sills are large, debarked logs whose top surfaces have been cut by a circular saw. The weatherboards had been white-washed, and the trim around the doorways and windows painted green. These features as well as the boxed eaves which were trimmed by boards cut into a scalloped pattern, gave the building an attractive appearance when it was in use, and an appearance that would have been enhanced by the grounds that were kept clean and well-ordered by the children.

The interior of the original block was clad with 1" x 4" planks painted blue. The floor boards were narrow tongue and groove strips of flooring. A brick stove flue ascended the exterior of the east gable end, indicating that the school was heated.

The new block was similar in construction, except that its frame was attached by wire nails throughout. In size, it consisted of only 2 bays in length and one in width, though it appears larger due to an additional room that was built on the southern gable end of the original block and which is joined to this block. In appearance, the newer sections lack the more decorative entranceway and trim of the original, for they were added to meet the needs for more space and were, therefore, to be inexpensive and utilitarian and were somewhat set off from the public and decorative front.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES

C.1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to Mrs. Bernice Sherman, a life-long resident of the Abell community, her father, Luke Clark, and other responsible black leaders in the community mortgaged their land to put up the money to buy the land for the school and to pay for its construction. The organization was named the United Parents' Trustee Association. Luke Clark was the President. His home, in which Mrs. Sherman resides, has been surveyed as part of this project. Mrs. Sherman also said that the school only owned the land on which the building stood, so the Love and Charity Hall -- the black beneficial society located close by -- bought additional property for the children to play on. Luke Clark's other daughter, Julia Clark, taught at this school for many years.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

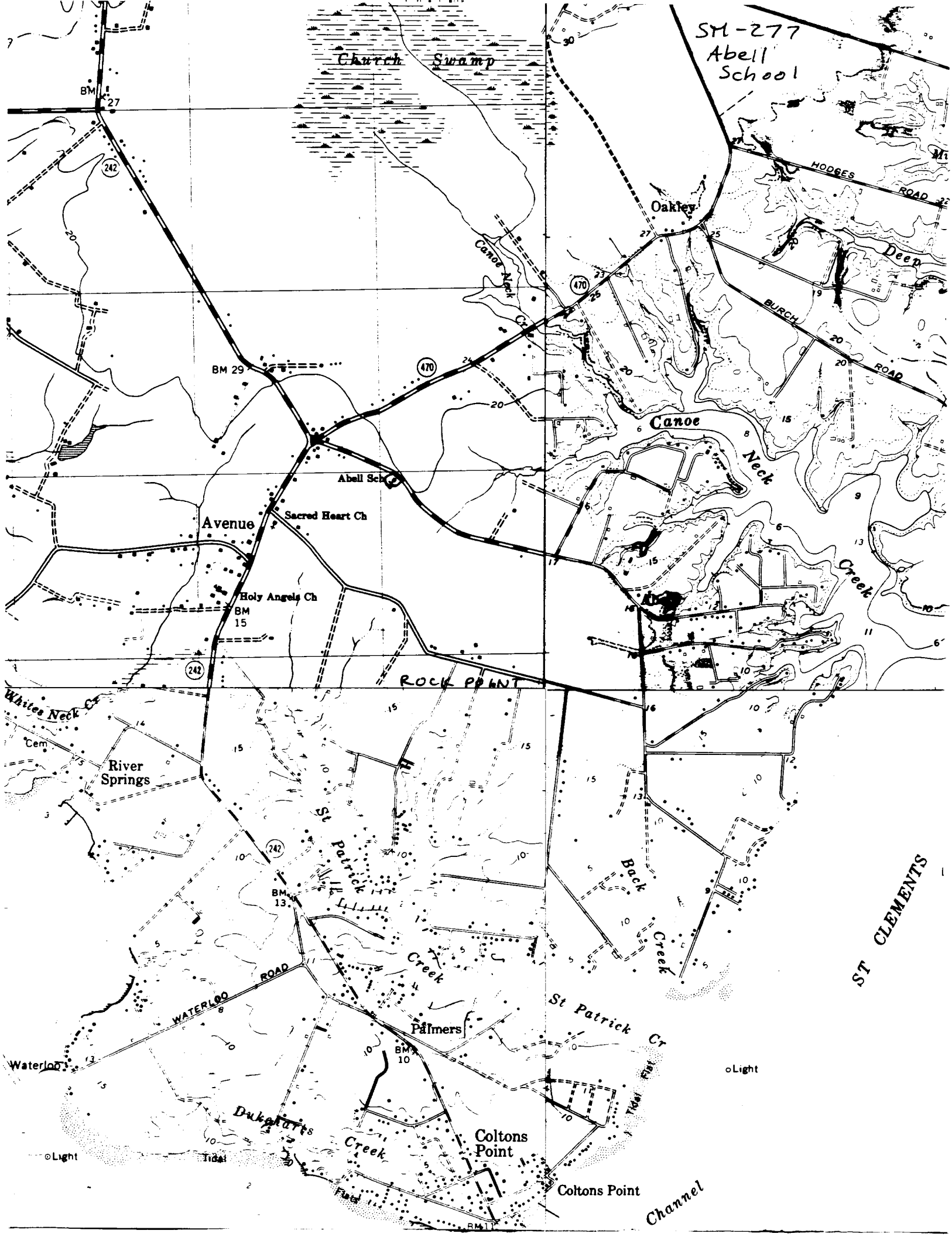
Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438





ABELL School

ST MA — 277

ABELL, md.

GWM — 11/77

WEST facade



Abell School

STMA 277

Abell, Md.

GWM — 11/77

North facade